

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

IN RE VIDEO CONFERENCING FOR DISCIPLINARY)
HEARINGS)
)

SECOND GENERAL OMNIBUS ORDER

On July 24, 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Police Board entered a General Omnibus Order on conducting disciplinary hearings via two-way video conferencing (such as the Zoom platform). Given the significant change in the COVID-19 landscape, including declining cases and hospitalizations, increasing vaccinations, updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and local authorities, and the City of Chicago's entry into Phase 5 on June 11, 2021, the Board determines that conducting hearings via Zoom is no longer "necessary to further an important public policy" in many circumstances. Therefore, the July 24, 2020, General Omnibus Order is hereby **vacated** and replaced with this Second General Omnibus Order.

Conducting an entire disciplinary hearing or a portion thereof via Zoom will be considered only upon the filing of motion and for good cause shown, or upon the agreement of the parties.¹ It shall be within the discretion of the Hearing Officer assigned to the case to grant or deny such motion.

It shall also be within the discretion of the Hearing Officer to order and enforce rules for in-person proceedings to protect the health and safety of the participants and the public,

¹The Board encourages the parties to consider reaching agreement to have all or a portion of the hearing via Zoom to reduce the amount of time in the hearing room, thereby further reducing the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

including but not limited to requiring the wearing of a mask by all persons in the hearing room, except a witness during testimony.²

In the event that conducting some or all of the disciplinary hearing via Zoom is allowed, counsel and all hearing participants shall behave as if they were present in person. For example, counsel is prohibited from communicating with witnesses during the hearing, and the Respondent shall have the ability to confer privately with counsel during the conference. Recording the proceeding is not allowed by anyone except the Police Board staff or the Hearing Officer through the approved recording system. All participants must begin the hearing in Mute status and may unmute themselves to speak or respond to questions. For security and enforcement of Police Board standards, the Board may disable certain video conferencing features (including but not limited to chat, screen share, whiteboard, Q&A, raise hand, or react). The public shall have access to the Zoom proceeding via audio conference.

The Hearing Officer is authorized to conduct pre-hearing conferences via Zoom and to conduct status hearings via Zoom or audio conference.

This Order is adopted and entered by a majority of the members of the Police Board: Ghian Foreman, Paula Wolff, Matthew Crawl, Michael Eaddy, Steve Flores, Jorge Montes, Rhoda D. Sweeney, and Andrea L. Zopp.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2020.

²The Board's hearing room currently has clear dividers between participants and is set up to allow for social distancing.

Attested by:



GHIAN FOREMAN
President



MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director